

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

A system for starting up a flowline suitable for conveying hydrocarbons is provided. ~~The said flowline being~~ is extended over the seabed from a wellhead and terminated ~~terminating~~ at a joint end. The joint end is suitable for connection to a subsea riser extended in a catenary. The flowline is able to stretch and a [A] lock fixes the joint end with respect to the seabed for maintaining the flowline in its stretched position, and preventing its return movement.